

I suggest the absence of a quorum.  
 The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I am pretty sure I am joining my colleague from Washington, who probably just spoke on the same subject, but I come to the floor to support the nominations of two very exceptional nominees to serve as judges for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington.

Kimberly Evanson, born and raised in our State, grew up in Grays Harbor County before attending Tacoma High School in Tacoma. She attended Seattle University and went on to graduate from Georgetown University Law Center.

Nearly her entire legal career has been spent in the Western District of Washington and the district in which she will serve, if confirmed. She has nearly 15 years of experience with constitutional and Federal law procedure, making her—as the American Bar Association said—“well-qualified” for the Federal bench.

Ms. Evanson has dedicated her free time to supporting her community through volunteer work, and since 2013, she has been a regular volunteer with the Western District of Washington’s Federal Civil Rights Legal Clinic. There, she provides legal advice to King and Pierce County residents who face employment discrimination, disability, housing, prison misconduct, and excessive force claims.

Ms. Evanson’s commitment to ensuring legal services and counsel is available to all, regardless of income, shows her dedication to a fair and inclusive justice system.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Ms. Evanson to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington without delay.

I also want to urge my colleagues to vote to confirm Tiffany Cartwright for the Western District of Washington. This is a historic nomination. If confirmed, Ms. Cartwright would be the first woman to serve as Federal district judge from the Tacoma courthouse.

Ms. Cartwright is a proud Washingtonian who grew up in Kitsap County and attended Central Kitsap High School. She went on to earn a bachelor of arts from Stanford University in 2007 and a juris doctorate from Stanford Law School.

Ms. Cartwright is extremely experienced in our court system. She has served as a law clerk in the Alaska State Supreme Court and has served as a Federal law clerk for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Ms. Cartwright currently serves as a civil rights attorney in Seattle, where her practice focuses on police mis-

conduct and gender discrimination. In addition to her work as a civil rights attorney, Ms. Cartwright serves on the Local Rules Committee for the Federal Bar Association.

Ms. Cartwright has made it a priority to improve the accessibility of the courts. In her free time, she has served as pro bono counsel for cases involving women’s and LGBTQ+ rights. And at the Seattle law firm where she works, she has developed a successful fellowship program to draw a diverse range of applicants to the firm and help reduce bias in the workforce.

A real champion for her community and civil rights, she would make an outstanding addition to the district court in the Western District of Washington. And again, I urge my colleagues to vote to confirm Tiffany Cartwright for the Western District of Washington.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON HIDALGO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hidalgo nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 177 Ex.]

YEAS—51

|              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Hassan       | Peters     |
| Bennet       | Heinrich     | Reed       |
| Blumenthal   | Hickenlooper | Rosen      |
| Booker       | Hirono       | Sanders    |
| Brown        | Kaine        | Schatz     |
| Cantwell     | Kelly        | Schumer    |
| Cardin       | Klobuchar    | Sinema     |
| Carper       | Lujan        | Smith      |
| Casey        | Manchin      | Stabenow   |
| Collins      | Markey       | Tester     |
| Coons        | Menendez     | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley      | Warner     |
| Duckworth    | Murkowski    | Warnock    |
| Feinstein    | Murphy       | Warren     |
| Fetterman    | Murray       | Welch      |
| Gillibrand   | Ossoff       | Whitehouse |
| Graham       | Padilla      | Wyden      |

NAYS—42

|           |         |          |
|-----------|---------|----------|
| Barrasso  | Capito  | Daines   |
| Blackburn | Cassidy | Ernst    |
| Boozman   | Cornyn  | Fischer  |
| Braun     | Cramer  | Grassley |
| Britt     | Crapo   | Hagerty  |
| Budd      | Cruz    | Hawley   |

|            |           |            |
|------------|-----------|------------|
| Hoeven     | McConnell | Schmitt    |
| Hyde-Smith | Moran     | Scott (FL) |
| Johnson    | Mullin    | Scott (SC) |
| Kennedy    | Paul      | Thune      |
| Lankford   | Risch     | Tuberville |
| Lee        | Romney    | Vance      |
| Lummis     | Rounds    | Wicker     |
| Marshall   | Rubio     | Young      |

NOT VOTING—7

|        |          |        |
|--------|----------|--------|
| Cotton | Ricketts | Tillis |
| Durbin | Shaheen  |        |
| King   | Sullivan |        |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

VOTE ON EVANSON NOMINATION

Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Evanson nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 178 Ex.]

YEAS—50

|              |           |            |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Hassan    | Reed       |
| Bennet       | Heinrich  | Rosen      |
| Blumenthal   | Hirono    | Sanders    |
| Booker       | Kaine     | Schatz     |
| Brown        | Kelly     | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | Klobuchar | Sinema     |
| Cardin       | Lujan     | Smith      |
| Carper       | Manchin   | Stabenow   |
| Casey        | Markey    | Tester     |
| Collins      | Menendez  | Van Hollen |
| Coons        | Merkley   | Warner     |
| Cortez Masto | Murkowski | Warnock    |
| Duckworth    | Murphy    | Warren     |
| Feinstein    | Murray    | Welch      |
| Fetterman    | Ossoff    | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand   | Padilla   | Wyden      |
| Graham       | Peters    |            |

NAYS—42

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso  | Fischer    | Mullin     |
| Blackburn | Grassley   | Paul       |
| Boozman   | Hagerty    | Risch      |
| Braun     | Hawley     | Romney     |
| Britt     | Hoeven     | Rounds     |
| Budd      | Hyde-Smith | Rubio      |
| Capito    | Johnson    | Schmitt    |
| Cassidy   | Kennedy    | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Scott (SC) |
| Cramer    | Lee        | Thune      |
| Crapo     | Lummis     | Tuberville |
| Cruz      | Marshall   | Vance      |
| Daines    | McConnell  | Wicker     |
| Ernst     | Moran      | Young      |

## NOT VOTING—8

|              |          |          |
|--------------|----------|----------|
| Cotton       | King     | Sullivan |
| Durbin       | Ricketts | Tillis   |
| Hickenlooper | Shaheen  |          |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 8, Tiffany M. Cartwright, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Brian Schatz, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Tim Kaine, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Benjamin L. Cardin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Tiffany M. Cartwright, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Ex.]

## YEAS—49

|            |              |              |
|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Baldwin    | Casey        | Graham       |
| Bennet     | Collins      | Hassan       |
| Blumenthal | Coons        | Heinrich     |
| Booker     | Cortez Masto | Hickenlooper |
| Brown      | Duckworth    | Hirono       |
| Cantwell   | Feinstein    | Kaine        |
| Cardin     | Fetterman    | Kelly        |
| Carper     | Gillibrand   | Klobuchar    |

|          |          |            |
|----------|----------|------------|
| Lujan    | Peters   | Van Hollen |
| Manchin  | Reed     | Warner     |
| Markey   | Rosen    | Warnock    |
| Menendez | Schatz   | Warren     |
| Merkley  | Schumer  | Welch      |
| Murphy   | Sinema   | Whitehouse |
| Murray   | Smith    | Wyden      |
| Ossoff   | Stabenow |            |
| Padilla  | Tester   |            |

## NAYS—42

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso  | Grassley   | Murkowski  |
| Blackburn | Hagerty    | Paul       |
| Boozman   | Hawley     | Risch      |
| Braun     | Hoeven     | Romney     |
| Britt     | Hyde-Smith | Rounds     |
| Budd      | Johnson    | Rubio      |
| Capito    | Kennedy    | Schmitt    |
| Cassidy   | Lankford   | Scott (FL) |
| Cornyn    | Lee        | Scott (SC) |
| Crapo     | Lummis     | Thune      |
| Cruz      | Marshall   | Tuberville |
| Daines    | McConnell  | Vance      |
| Ernst     | Moran      | Wicker     |
| Fischer   | Mullin     | Young      |

## NOT VOTING—9

|        |          |          |
|--------|----------|----------|
| Cotton | King     | Shaheen  |
| Cramer | Ricketts | Sullivan |
| Durbin | Sanders  | Tillis   |

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Tiffany M. Cartwright, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska.

## GRAPHITE AND GRAPHITE ONE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, more is happening with minerals around the world than ever before. We are seeing global demand driven by growth and technology, legislation and regulation. Everything is just skyrocketing. Yet the global supply is often tenuous. Really, it is very thoroughly dominated by China, and there are clear warning signs that we here in the United States urgently need to reduce our foreign dependence by rebuilding our domestic supply chains.

As we stand here today, our Nation's lack of mineral security is a glaring vulnerability. It is a threat to our security. It is a threat to our competitiveness. It is a threat to our geopolitical power and our ability to lead on industries of the future. The obvious solution is to do a lot more in this space, which makes sense, but it starts with mining, and until we have achieved stable, affordable supplies of as many minerals as possible here at home, that vulnerability will continue.

We have begun to put a framework in place to do that. We did this through the legislation that I had introduced, the American Mineral and Security Act. We also did some with the bipartisan infrastructure law and with the provisions that Chairman MANCHIN added to the Inflation Reduction Act.

These are a good start, but there is no shortage of minerals where meaningful action is still needed.

So we could talk about copper—the "metal of electrification" as my friend Dr. Daniel Yergin puts it—where forecasts of shortages in the twenties and thirties are becoming commonplace. Now, I would be the first one to acknowledge that we cannot produce copper everywhere it is found—I think there are just a few places that are too, too sensitive—but we need to make up for this by approving projects in locations where it does make sense, and that is simply not happening right now.

We could also talk about gallium and germanium. Just before the Fourth of July, our Independence Day, China announced export controls for both of these critical minerals as part of their escalating war over semiconductors. So what is our domestic reaction to that? Well, it is not independence. It has really become more of a scramble. We have seen with the Department of the Interior that they have repeatedly delayed a good project in Alaska—this is the Ambler Access Project—that would provide access to long-term supplies of both germanium and gallium.

What we are doing here is giving China leverage. They have certainly seized on it in what could well become a pattern across dozens of minerals and materials. In a very real sense, in many ways, we are giving them bullets for the gun that they will hold us hostage to. And it is not just here in the United States. We saw it just few years back when China cut off supplies of rare earths to Japan in an effort to utilize that leverage.

Today, I have come to the floor to discuss a different type of critical mineral, and that is graphite.

Graphite is described by the U.S. Geological Survey as a "soft, crystalline form of carbon" that "occurs naturally in metamorphic rocks such as marble, schist, and gneiss." Graphite "exhibits the properties of a metal and a nonmetal," which include "thermal and electrical conductivity" as well as "inertness, high thermal resistance, and lubricity." Graphite is valued because it is relatively lightweight. Yet it is very dense. It is a good semiconductor, a good conductor, and more stable than many of the alternatives.

Now, most of us are most familiar with the graphite that we know in pencils. Pencils don't contain lead; they contain graphite. It is also used in things like brake linings, steelmaking, headphones, and today, perhaps most crucially, advanced rechargeable batteries and fuel cells. So if you care about smartphones, if you care about EVs, if you care about climate change and the energy transition, there is really no way around it—you will need to care a lot more about graphite than you probably currently do.

Lithium-ion batteries typically require far more graphite than lithium—up to 15 times more. Graphite can account for more than a quarter of those